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The finding of the males with these sexual characters, on the 21st of September, the latest record yet reported, seems to indicate that this species retains such features late in the year, as is known to be true, of its relatives in Europe.

The specimens respectively measure:—snout to anus, 50mm. female; 36mm., 39, males; "tail" 7mm., 8mm.; width of head 16.5mm., female, 14mm., 15mm., males; hind limb 64mm. female, 59mm., 63mm., males.

KATHERINE VAN WINKLE,
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An additional record of the occurrences of *Ascaphus* has already been cited in Copeia No. 40. The specimen came from Red Creek in the Santiam National Forest, Linn County, Oregon, at an altitude of 3,000 feet.

Mr. Phillips G. Putnam, of Lake Cushman, Washington, in a letter of August 29, 1921, sent the editors the following notes which, although not intended for publication, confirm and supplement the above observations and may well be given here. "When I went up the Skokomish River, I expected to get a lot of *Ascaphus*, but my first day's collecting yielded me only two specimens. I was at a loss to understand such poor luck, but a few days before we had had a heavy rain, sopping the forests so that they reeked with water. I thought that the frogs might have forsaken the creek for the wet mossy soil. Further examination showed that the *Ascaphus* had left the creeks and were wandering about on land. I found four away from water, one of which had not begun to absorb the tail, and was over 100 feet from water. However, to collect the frogs in the forest was very difficult, as it was too much like looking for a 'needle in a hay stack.' I have always had the best luck collecting during a long dry spell. Now I know the reason to be that when it is wet, what few of them there are leave the water, and during a dry spell, lack of moisture forces them back again to the water."

—G. K. N.

ARE YOUNG SNAKES EVER SWALLOWED FOR PROTECTION?

The papers recently published in *Copeia* on the question of snakes swallowing their young for protection were very interesting to me, for, like many

others I have often heard the story and always found conclusive evidence lacking. Several questions occur to me in connection with this phenomenon.

First, has any observer ever seen the young snakes disgorged in a living condition? It is a well-known fact that snakes are cannibalistic, and possibly some species might devour their own young, but until some evidence is forthcoming that the young snakes are disgorged unhurt we should hesitate to say that the young are swallowed for protection.

A farmer living near my home in central Maine once told me that he saw a Garter Snake swallow her young. He put the snake in a box in his barn and later in the day saw some of the young snakes in the box, but when he came too close they ran into the mother's mouth again. I would consider such evidence conclusive if presented by a trained naturalist, but the farmer in question was an uneducated man and a poor observer, though undoubtedly sincere in his belief. Most of the evidence brought forward in favor of the belief rests on the fact of the swallowing alone, which may be mere cannibalism.

It may be that "there is no sound physiological reason against such an occurrence," as Cooke admits. I would like to know how long a young snake could remain without injury in the stomach of an adult where it would not only be without air but would be subjected to the action of the digestive fluids that would ultimately destroy it.

Another question is: Do the young of the ovoviviparous snakes remain with the mother for any length of time after birth? I have sometimes seen several specimens of *Thamnophis sirtalis* under the same board but none of these were less than a foot long. On the other hand, all of the very young snakes of this and other species that I have ever collected were alone. It seems to me that we should first determine whether the young snakes remain with the mother, before we consider whether they seek protection in

her stomach, for unless they do so such a protective habit would seem very improbable.

PHILIP H. POPE,
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***BUFO COGNATUS COGNATUS* (SAY)
IN UTAH.**

While studying an outbreak of sugar-beet webworms at Benson, Cache County, Utah, last August, the writer, with Dr. I. M. Hawley and Mr. Gerald Thorne, found two specimens of *Bufo cognatus cognatus* (Say). These toads are immature and measure not quite two inches in length. They are typical in structure and well within the known limits of color variation. They are of a light brown color, with conspicuous spots of dark green. The spotting is distinct with no tendency to stripe formation except in the third row, on the sides, where the greatly elongated spots form an almost unbroken band. There is a conspicuous green stripe along either side of the bony elevation found between the nostrils and the eyes.

It is not surprising to find this toad in Utah as it occurs to the south in Arizona, to the east in Colorado, and to the northeast in southern Wyoming. With this additional territory the range of this species can be given as extending over a fan-shaped area southward and southeastward from southern Wyoming, with the western edge running through Utah and Arizona and the southeastern edge extending through Colorado, Kansas and Arkansas.

H. J. PACK,
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